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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/776,498	02/10/2004	Gabriel F. Osten	20030332.ORI	3238

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EXAMINER

BUKOWCZYK, JEREMY

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3609

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	03/20/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/776,498

Applicant(s)

OSTEN, GABRIEL F.

Examiner

Jeremy Bukowczyk

Art Unit

3609

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 February 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 10 February 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 5/21/2004.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Sprenger et al. (August 1998).

Sprenger discloses a safety device for a motor driven industrial robot, comprising a power interrupter circuit operative to deactivate the motor (paragraph 4 of the Control Systems section), and a sensing element coupled to an end effector of the industrial robot for producing an electrical control signal when the end effector is rotated or is translated in undesirable fashion (paragraph 4 of the System Overview section).

Sprenger further inherently discloses a communication link for coupling the electrical control signal to the power interrupter circuit for controlling an operational state of the industrial robot by describing a controller to toggle the emergency stop when a signal is received from the sensor system based on rotational displacement (paragraphs 2 through 4 of the Control System section). Sprenger inherently discloses a communication link since a communication link is needed for the controller to receive the rotational displacement information from the sensor and to initiate the emergency stop.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 2 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sprenger et al. (August 1998), in view of Foxlin (5,645,077).

Sprenger discloses all the claimed elements as mentioned in claim 1. Sprenger fails to disclose a sensing means comprising a solid state angular rate sensor that produces an electrical control signal proportional to the rate of rotation of the base plate about a predetermined axis.

Foxlin in the same field of invention discloses a sensing means comprising a solid state angular rate sensor (col. 18, lines 6-7) that produces an electrical control signal proportional to the rate of rotation of the base plate about a predetermined axis (col. 18, lines 7-11).

From this teaching of Foxlin, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the safety device in a robot for handling products of Sprenger to include a sensing means comprising a solid state angular rate sensor that produces an electrical control signal proportional to the rate of rotation of the base plate about a predetermined axis as taught by Foxlin, in order to generate sensor signals that correspond to rotational accelerations (col. 3, lines 59-60).

5. Claims 4, 5, and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant Admitted Prior Art (hereinafter "AAPA"), in view of Sprenger et al. (August 1998).

As per claim 4, the applicant discloses as prior art in paragraphs 4-7 of the application (Discussion of the Prior Art) a robot for handling products in a three-dimensional space, said robot comprising a main casting from which a plurality of arms are pivotally joined for rotation about a corresponding plurality of axes, the main casting supporting a servo motor connected individually in driving relation to each of the plurality of arms, a base plate suspended from at least one of the plurality of arms where the at least one arm member includes a detachable joint on an opposed end thereof for joining to the base plate at one of the opposed ends, said plurality of arms acting to constrain the base plate to pure translational motion, the improvement comprising. The APA fails to disclose a sensing means affixed to the base plate for sensing at least one of inclination and rotation of the base plate and producing an electrical control signal, and a control circuit coupled to the servo motors and responsive to said electrical control signal for de-energizing the servo motors.

Sprenger in the same field of invention discloses a sensing means affixed to the base plate for sensing at least one of inclination and rotation of the base plate and producing an electrical control signal (paragraph 4 of the System Overview section), and a control circuit coupled to the servo motors (paragraph 2 of the Abstract) and responsive to said electrical control signal for de-energizing the servo motors (paragraph 4 of the Control System section).

From this teaching of Sprenger, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify a robot for handling products of the AAPA to include a sensing means affixed to the base plate for sensing at least one of inclination and rotation of the base plate and producing an electrical control signal, and a control circuit coupled to the servo motors and responsive to said electrical control signal for de-energizing the servo motors as taught by Sprenger, in order to stop the motors when working outside an allowed rotational range (paragraph 4 of the Control System section).

As per claim 5, the applicant discloses as prior art in paragraph 7 of the application (Discussion of the Prior Art) an inclination or rotation of the base plate occurs upon separation of the detachable joint coupling the at least one arm to the base plate.

As per claim 9, the applicant discloses as prior art in paragraph 6 of the application (Discussion of the Prior Art) a robot further including an end effector suspended from the base plate.

6. Claims 6, 7, 8, and 10-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over AAPA in view of Sprenger et al. (August 1998), as applied to claim 4 above, and further in view of Foxlin (5,645,077).

As per claims 6-8, the AAPA and Sprenger combination discloses the structural elements of the claimed invention, and discloses using servo motors (Sprenger, paragraph 2 of Abstract). The AAPA and Sprenger combination fails to disclose a sensing means comprising a solid state angular rate sensor that produces an electrical

control signal proportional to the rate of rotation of the base plate about a predetermined axis.

Foxlin in the same field of invention discloses a sensing means comprising a solid state angular rate sensor (col. 18, lines 6-7) that produces an electrical control signal proportional to the rate of rotation of the base plate about a predetermined axis (col. 18, lines 7-11).

From this teaching of Foxlin, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the safety device in a robot for handling products of AAPA in view of Sprenger to include a sensing means comprising a solid state angular rate sensor that produces an electrical control signal proportional to the rate of rotation of the base plate about a predetermined axis as taught by Foxlin, in order to generate sensor signals that correspond to rotational accelerations (col. 3, lines 59-60).

As per claims 10 and 11, the AAPA and Sprenger combination discloses the structural elements of the claimed invention, but fails to disclose transmitting an electrical control signal wirelessly to the control circuit and via a cable.

Foxlin discloses the concept of having transmitting an electrical control signal (316) wirelessly (col. 17, lines 7-9) to the control circuit (306) and via a cable (col. 20, lines 14-16).

From this teaching of Foxlin, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the sensor of the AAPA in view of Sprenger combination to include transmitting an electrical control signal wirelessly to the

control circuit and via a cable as taught by Foxlin for the purpose of flexibility to apply any approximate technology in transmitting a control signal.

As per claim 12, the AAPA and Sprenger combination discloses all the claimed elements as mentioned in claim 4 above, but fails to disclose a sensing means that is battery powered.

Foxlin in the same field of invention inherently discloses and a sensing means that is battery powered as evidenced by disclosing the use of a solid state angular rate sensor (col. 18, lines 6-7). A battery power source would be needed to power the sensor.

From this teaching of Foxlin, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the safety device in a robot for handling products of the AAPA in view of Sprenger to include a battery powered sensing means comprising a solid state angular rate sensor that produces an electrical control signal proportional to the rate of rotation of the base plate about a predetermined axis as taught by Foxlin, in order to keep the sensing means powered.

Conclusion

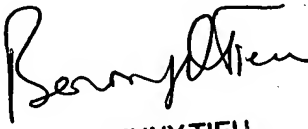
7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Foo discloses the use of a battery powered solid state angular rate sensor that produces an electrical control signal proportional to the rate of rotation.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jeremy Bukowczyk whose telephone number is 571-270-3022. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thu 6:30am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynda Jasmin can be reached on 571-270-3033. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

jb


BENNY TIEU
PRIMARY EXAMINER